

V.I.P. NEWS

 A large, hand-drawn style graphic of a red AIDS awareness ribbon. It is thick and has a textured, slightly irregular appearance.

Volume 9, Issue 4

July/August 1997

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INFOLINE



488-5816

V.I.P. News

A bi-monthly newsletter for the supporters of the AIDS Network of Edmonton Society.

AIDS Network of Edmonton Society

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1997 CAS A.G.M.

The 1997 CAS Forum and AGM took place in Hull Québec from July 8th to 13th. 71 of the 105 member groups sent delegates to both events, with the forum having approximately 70 participants, and the AGM having close to 200 participants.

The “Forum” - This year, the forum took place over the first day and a half of the week long conference. This is an annual event that brings together people infected with HIV to discuss national issues of concern to them.

The events for the forum included:

- A key note address “So you think AIDS is cured, eh?” by David Hoe, a long time AIDS activist and person living with HIV/AIDS.
- A panel discussion on access to treatments, highlighting some of the barriers that exist for accessing treatments, and some of the issues that affect PLWHIV/AIDS across Canada.
- Concurrent workshops on “The Art of Positive Living” (a survival training program run by the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia) and “Finding AIDS Treatment Information on the Web” (a demonstration of accessing information on the web presented by CATIE).
- Regional Caucus’ to provide the opportunity for people from each of the five Health Canada Regions to discuss their concerns and issues, as well as to elect their HIV Regional Director. As the prairies were not electing an HIV Regional Director this year, we took the time to discuss issues of concern to our region.

The final day of the forum was taken up by CAS business, primarily changes to the by-laws which would formalize the forum within the Canadian AIDS Society’s Annual General Meeting.



(Continued on page 3)

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Urgently require people willing to train and help with At Home Care.

This may involve cleaning, making meals, pet care, or just having coffee.

If you know of anyone (family, friends, church group, etc.) who might be willing to help out, please call June @488-5742.



The Walk Office needs 10-15 volunteers to contact businesses and community organizations and encourage them to form teams for the upcoming AIDS Walk Edmonton 1997.

No hard sell required.

Calls can be made from the Network or at home. A script will be provided.

Interested? Call June @488-5742.

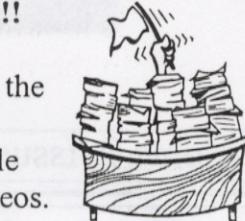
Recognition

We are planning on setting aside a corner in each newsletter to salute one volunteer who has really made a difference.

Can you tell us about a volunteer who puts in a lot of time, or who goes that little bit extra for us? Do you have a volunteer story that you would like to share? (We will get permission from the volunteer before printing)

If you know a volunteer who fits this description call 488-5742 and talk to June

- Help us Find Heather!!!!
- Heather needs some help in the Resource Center filing and making phone calls to people with overdue books and videos.
- Training will be provided.
- If you have some spare time and would like to help dig Heather out from a mound of paper, call 488-5742 and talk to June.



The “Fringe” will be a different format for us this year but we will be there.



Want to be part of the fun? Please phone June for the details on shift times and what's new.

Remember, we are always accepting submissions for our VIP Views page.

Please send in your poetry, stories or anything you would like to share.



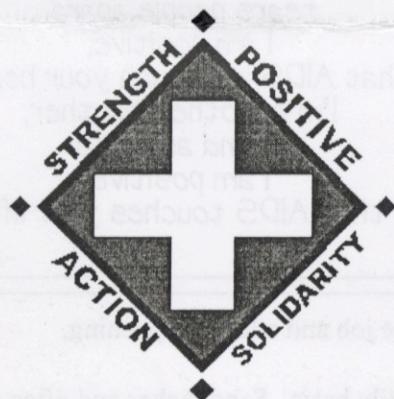
Submissions can be faxed to 488-3735, e-mailed to anoes@connect.ab.ca, or mailed to the Network, Attn.: VIP News.

If you are going to e-mail submission, please send them as plain text files, WP 5.1 or MS Word 2.0 files. It just makes it that much easier for us to import your submission into the newsletter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Living Positive
is looking for volunteers
to help them solicit donations from
merchants for their silent auction to be held
in conjunction with World AIDS Day.

If you are interested, please call
Wayne @ 488-5768



The AIDS Network
is now
on the Web!

<http://www.connect.ab.ca/~anoes>

(Continued from page 1)

A Satellite Symposium - For the first time, this year saw a period of time devoted to providing a symposium on an issue that was open to both PWAs and to agency delegates. The symposium looked at "sustainability" from two perspectives - "Organizational Effectiveness" and "Fundraising". Workshops were then presented on "Managing Organizational Transformation" and "Fundraising: Events, Corporate and Individual Approaches".

The CAS AGM - Much of the time spent at the Annual General Meeting portion of the conference centered around business of the society - reviewing the workplan, the budget, the projects, and giving direction to the Board of Directors for the future. Time was also allowed for workshops and interactions between agencies and delegates. Some of the highlights from this year included:

- A presentation by the Assistant Deputy Minister of Health responsible for the Health Promotions Programs Branch. The ADM read a statement from Minister Alan Rock regarding the implementation of the next National AIDS Strategy. The statement acknowledged the need to act quickly on this. The Minister then met with the Chair of CAS (Brian Huskins) and the Executive Director (Russell Armstrong) and has committed the government to having the new strategy in place by World AIDS Day, December 1, 1997.
- Workshops included "Legal & Ethical Issues Raised by HIV/AIDS", "The NAMES Project: Canadian AIDS Memorial Quilt", "Emerging Priorities in Support", "Sharing Approaches in Prevention", "Men's Survey Action Plan Project", and "Bridging Gaps, Building Bridges: Program Evaluation as a Tool for Research and Community Development".

If anyone would like further information, please feel free to talk to either Kathy, Sandra, or myself, the three ANE delegates to the 1997 Forum and AGM.

Wayne Hellard

SUPPORT SERVICES

In Memorium

We Remember

Gregory S.W.

Ken G.

Raymond M.

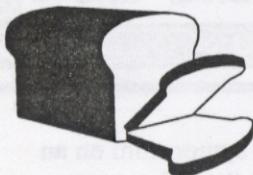


Forever in our hearts

Positive Touch
 Listen closely,
 because you can hear.
 I am positive,
 that AIDS will touch your ears.
 All of the stories
 that made me cry
 I am positive,
 that AIDS will touch your eyes.
 Feel how the pain
 tears people apart.
 I am positive,
 that AIDS will touch your heart.
 I'm a mother, brother,
 friend and wife
 I am positive
 that AIDS touches your life.

-Anonymous

It has been a bit more than three months that Garth and I have been on the job and a lot is happening.



Free food is now available for our clients on a daily basis. Sandwiches and often muffins are usually in the kitchen for those looking for a bite to eat. In addition, the North Edmonton Distribution Foundation is using our space to distribute food every Thursday. At present it is mostly bread products. If you or anyone you know is interested in getting a box of food on Thursday call 477-7745 and give them your name and telephone number. This program is open to anyone regardless of HIV status.

Risk Free Theatre will be looking to hire a coordinator and a number of actors/educators. If you are between 14-25 years old, want a part time job, and are interested in being a part of a dynamic AIDS education theatre project aimed at Inner City Youth call us. This one year project is being made possible by a donation from Levi Strauss and Co. (Canada) Ltd. and the United Way.

Support Services continues to make its weekly presence with Streetworks both on the van and at the Boyle McCauley Health Center.

Requests for Care Team and buddies is steadily increasing as the word gets out that they are available. We are in need of people especially in surrounding communities and those available during the daytime. Call June @ 488-5742 if you are interested in getting involved.

We now have liquid supplements, bars, soups, and coffees available for sampling. Just ask Garth or Deborah if you are interested in trying them. These samples are made possible from the Nestle/Clintec Company.

Give us call if you are interested in chatting or would like to know more about what new and exciting things we are involved in.

EDUCATION UPDATE

Hi folks!!! Just a quick note to let all of you know what is going on with the Education/Outreach/GMOC portfolio. It has been an interesting month! Julie has just been hired on as my other (better) half. We are now both Education - Outreach Workers and are trying to get our feet wet in the area. I will still be looking after the Gay Men's Outreach Crew but I could desperately use some assistance in that regard. If you would like to be part of the "condom crew" or would like to train to be a facilitator for one of the workshops that we run, please give me a call at 488-5742. Our regular workshops will be starting up again in the fall, but until then we are offering something new called *TALKING TOGETHER*, a drop-in session co-sponsored by GMOC and GLCCE. This is a two hour workshop being held every Sunday evening at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center at 7 PM. It is specifically designed for men who are just coming to terms with being gay but men of every "experience" level could probably benefit from it.

As I'm sure that you're probably aware, HIV affects all of us in different ways. It used to be known as strictly a gay men's disease, but we certainly know that this is no longer true. Adolescents, aborigines, injection drug users, and heterosexual women are more and more at risk and these are the "groups" that Julie and I will be focussing on in the next few months. We have already had meetings with the Youth Emergency Shelter and other youth groups and are looking forward to connecting with other groups in the near future.

I've had an interesting couple of weeks. I've been told by various doctors to "Cheer up, maybe it's only leukemia", "perhaps it's only diabetes", "have you considered making a will?", and other such heart-warming thoughts. I don't know what it's like to live with HIV, but I have a pretty good idea now what it is like to face a life threatening illness. In the last little while I've lost about 20 pounds, had chronic diarrhea, night sweats, and other symptoms of HIV. Apparently I have a bizarre immune system that doesn't bother to produce antibodies to blood borne viruses so I had to have an HIV-PCR test performed (a test that looks for the virus itself, not just the antibodies). The bottom line is that I'm "disgustingly healthy" (my doctor's words) and I'm not going to die, at least not yet. But the last two weeks have been HELL!!! I have really gained an appreciation for what people with a serious illness go through on a daily basis.

Kirk Starkie

New Resources



Video: *Recognizing CMV Retinitis: Early Screening and Warning Signs.*

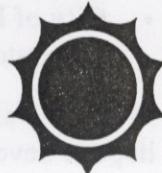
Book: *Sometimes My Heart Goes Numb: Love & Caregiving in the Time of AIDS.*



This book portraits twenty exemplary caregivers. They are men and women from vastly different backgrounds with one thing in common: they have chosen to care for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Caregivers everywhere will treasure this book as a guide whose tales are raw, honest, funny, wise, and always inspiring.

Summertime in the Resource Center



The sun is shining (well somewhere it is), the grass is green, flowers are blooming and the Resource Center is getting a much needed summer face lift.

Those of you who access the Resource Center on a regular basis will have noticed that the books have been moved around a bit. And if you're like me - you can't find a thing! Help is on the way! New labels are slowly appearing on the shelves, which should make it easier to find what you are looking for. I hope with the spreading out of materials, access to resources will be easier.

Over the summer new books will be added to the library. I have a box of stuff that so far hasn't made it to the shelves. Thank the Buddhas for summer and the time to catch up on the pile of resources that have been accumulating.

I hope everyone has a great summer.

Heather Syren

DONOR RECOGNITION

The AIDS Network of Edmonton Society has continued to receive financial and other supports from a number of sources including government, business/corporations, employee groups, foundations and individuals. All support, whether financial or in-kind, are very much appreciated because they allow the various volunteer, support and education programs, as well as administrative or operational aspects of the AIDS Network to provide and deliver needed services to the community.

We would like to acknowledge and thank all those who have made donations and/or contributions, or have supported the AIDS Network in our work and service delivery for this first quarter of the 1997/98 fiscal year. We are also grateful to those individuals who are members of the AIDS Network, as they have direct input and are able to contribute to our agency in different ways, and their membership fees go directly to support PLWHIV/AIDS through the Ross Armstrong Memorial Trust Fund.

Since April 1, 1997 we have had some major financial contributions to the AIDS Network. We would like to offer our thanks to the following:

- **The Stollery Charitable Foundation** for donating to our volunteer services, training and participation in community events and initiatives.
- **M.A.C. AIDS Fund** for supporting the material and supply costs for delivering AIDS awareness education and support.
- **Levi Strauss & Co. (Canada) Ltd.** for supporting a youth theatre project.
- **Action on AIDS Program** in support with the **Alberta Community Council on AIDS** for a sustainability project to examine how we can do a better job of fundraising and development to help sustain programs and delivery of services.
- **Civic Service Union** for supporting the delivery and resources of programs to the community and those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.
- **City of Edmonton** for their support of the ANE in providing much needed social services to Edmontonians.

We would also like to thank the many private and personal individual donations to the AIDS Network. We hope to develop ongoing partnerships with all our contributors and sponsors, and to keep you informed on how your donations are being utilized and how important your donations are to the ongoing work of the AIDS Network of Edmonton Society.

Kathy Burns

Special thanks to all of the members and friends of the AIDS Network of Edmonton who attended our Annual General Meeting on June 18, 1997.

We would also like to thank all the past and present Board members for all the time and energy that they have put into the Network. We appreciate your commitment.

For those who were unable to attend, copies of our Annual Report are available from the Network by calling Corinne or Betty at 488-5742.

Board of Directors 1997/87

Susan Jamieson, Chairperson
Wayne Hellard, Vice-Chair
Nieves Calaycay
Steven Dieleman, Programs
Bonnie Glover
Ronald Goede
Paul Hastings, Development
Lynda Lyttle, Finance
Dwayne Pasnak, Ross Armstrong Fund
Cheryl Querengesser
Dr. Geoffrey Taylor
David Ushko, Treasurer

AIDS WALK EDMONTON 1997

In an annual example of cooperation and community spirit, four agencies come together at our fundraising walk. The four agencies that benefit from AIDS Walk Edmonton offer different, but complimentary services to those affected by HIV, and all agree that the Walk is an essential awareness and revenue-raising event. Here, representatives from each agency describe why the Walk -- and your support for the Walk -- is so important to all of us.

Interfaith Association on AIDS (IAOA): positively spiritual. IAOA believes that spiritual well-being is an important element in a holistic approach to health. Through education, creating supportive faith communities for those infected with and affected by HIV has proved both rewarding and challenging. In the three years that IAOA has been serving the faith communities, we have reached and provided resource materials for AIDS service organizations, faith communities, schools and hospitals, in Edmonton, across Canada, into the US and around the world. We have given presentations and panel discussions to college students, pastoral care teams, leaders and lay persons from all faith traditions, and have even spoken to a congregation as part of a worship service. Currently, IAOA is working on a project to reach 8 rural Alberta communities. We still have much to do, and we need your continuing support. Everyone can participate by pledging their support for AIDS Walk Edmonton, which will ensure that we can continue our vital work. See you at the Walk! -*Gil Charest*

Feather of Hope: I am part of my community. All monies raised by Feather of Hope through AIDS Walk Edmonton go to our Emergency Fund for Aboriginal Persons Having AIDS (APHA's). Often native people who are HIV+ are in urban centers, cut off from their communities and families, facing racism, poverty, drug or alcohol problems and a deadly disease that still carries stigma. Money raised through the Walk enables us to provide funds for basic needs, counselling, protein and vitamin supplements or other emergent needs. In meeting these needs, money raised through the Walk enables APHA's to live longer, healthier lives. The need is great and is becoming more so every day; rates of HIV in the Aboriginal community are rising. Our sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters are getting this disease and they need our help -- support AIDS Walk Edmonton 1997. -*Jessica Daniels*

Living Positive: take a positive step. AIDS Walk Edmonton is important to Living Positive for many reasons. While we receive funding from the Province that almost covers the costs of staff and rent, we receive very little funding for programs that directly benefit people living with HIV. Funds raised through the Walk help cover the costs of our massage program, support group, retreats, treatment information, access to the internet, and opportunities for people living with HIV to connect with each other and share their experiences of living with HIV. We sincerely hope that people will remember Living Positive and come out to support the Walk on September 28. -*Cornie Meyer*

"I want to help fight AIDS."

You can.

We've all talked the talk.

Let's walk the Walk.

AIDS Walk



Edmonton

**1997 AIDS Walk Edmonton
September 28
call 488-5742 to register**

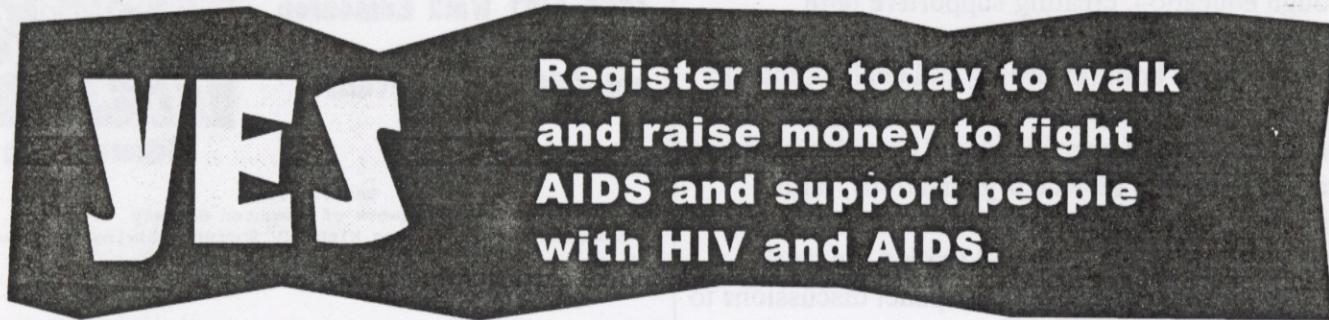
Benefitting:
AIDS Network of Edmonton Society
Edmonton Persons Living With HIV Society: Living Positive
Interfaith Association On AIDS
Feather of Hope Aboriginal AIDS Prevention Society

AIDS WALK EDMONTON 1997

(Continued from page 7)

The AIDS Network: Working together, walking together. Money raised by the Walk enables the Network to continue offering a diversity of services to everyone affected by HIV. The revenues go towards our education and client services programs: our resource center, which offers a wide range of educational books, videos and pamphlets; Speaker's Bureau, which provides educational and awareness-raising presentations to schools, businesses and other community organizations; and our support services programs, which offer support to our HIV+ clients and their families in the form of buddies, Care Teams, and support groups. Join us at AIDS Walk Edmonton 1997 -- and help us continue our much-needed work!

In addition to being an important fundraiser, the Walk is also an opportunity to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and the services that the various agencies offer. Above all, it is a chance for us to come together and, in walking, to show our support for our agencies, our clients and each other. To register for AIDS Walk Edmonton or to become an AIDS Walk volunteer, phone the Walk office at 488-5742; then walk with us on September 28. **AIDS Walk Edmonton 1997... We've all talked the talk. Let's walk the Walk.**



Return completed form to: #201, 11456 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, AB, T5K 0M1

Mr. Mrs. Ms.

(first name) _____

(last name) _____

Address : _____

City, Prov., Postal Code : _____

Phone :

(day) _____

(evening) _____

Company or school team name if applicable _____

Although money raised will benefit all four agencies, I am walking on behalf of:

AIDS Network of Edmonton

Interfaith Association on AIDS

Living Positive

Feather of Hope

All of these agencies

In signing this release, I (we) acknowledge that I (we) understand the intent thereof, and I (we) hereby agree and absolve and hold harmless the AIDS Network Society, Edmonton Persons Living with HIV: Living Positive, Feather of Hope Aboriginal AIDS Prevention Society, Interfaith Association on AIDS, corporate sponsors, cooperating organizations, and other parties or persons connected with this event in any way, singly or collectively, from and against any blame and liability for any injury, misadventure, harm, loss, inconvenience, or damage hereby suffered or sustained as a result of participation in AIDS Walk Edmonton 1997 or any activities associated therewith. I (we) hereby consent to and permit emergency treatment in the event of injury or illness. I (we) also give permission for use of my name and photo in connection with this event.

Signature (parent/guardian if participant is under 18) _____

Date _____